

NAGASE

Application No. 09/921,601

Response to Office Action dated January 13, 2005

**Remarks**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claim 21 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 21 has been re-written in self-standing independent form and claims 18 and 22-25 have been amended to depend therefrom. Claims 18 and 21-25 are now believed to be allowable.

While not acquiescing in the various rejections in the office action, claims 1-17, 19 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. As such, these rejections are moot.

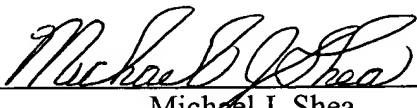
Because these amendments are believed to place the application in condition for allowance, entry is believed to be appropriate and is respectfully requested.

The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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